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LA Surgical Society

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Mr. Bernard S. Weintraub

Southern California Public Health Assn.

VACANT

American Heart Association

Western States Affiliate

VACANT

Public Member (1st District)

Public Member (2nd District)

Public Member (3rd District)

Executive Director

Cathy Chidester

Director, EMS Agency

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

TEL: (562) 347-1500 ~ FAX (562) 941-5835

MINUTES

July 17, 2013

COMMISSIONERS	ORGANIZATION	EMS AGENCY STAFF	POSITION
David Austin (Exc)	LAC Ambulance Assn	Cathy Chidester	Director, EMS
Robert Barnes(Exc)	LAC Police Chiefs Assn	Richard Tadeo	Assistant Director, EMS
☑ Frank Binch	So. CA Psychiatric Society	Marilyn Rideaux	EMSC Liaison
☑ Erick H. Cheung, MD	HASC	Cathy Jennings	Staff, EMS Agency
☑ Gerald B. Clute	L.A. County Medical Assn	Erika Reich	Staff, EMS Agency
Robert Flashman, MD (Exc)	CAL/ACEP	Gary Watson	Staff, EMS Agency
Clayton Kazan, MD (Exc)	CA State Firefighters' Assn.	David Wells	Staff, EMS Agency
☑ Ray Mosack	League of California Cities		
☑ Daryl Parrish	Peace Officers Assn. of LAC		
☑ Andres Ramirez	Emergency Nurses Assn.		
☑ Carole Snyder	LA Chapter/Fire Chiefs Assn		
☑ Jon Thompson	L.A. Surgical Society		
☑ Areti Tillou, MD	Public Member, 5 th District		
Gary Washburn (Absent)	Public Member, 4 th District		
☑ Bernard Weintraub	S. CA Public Health Assn.		

GUESTS

Sean English	Pasadena Fire	Jeff Elder	LAFD
Brian Hudson	Torrance Fire Dept.	Laurie Lee-Brown	Torrance Fire Dept.
Samantha Verga-Gates	APCC/PCC, LBMMC	Greg Reynar	L.A. Fire Dept.
Nicole Steeneken	CF	Victoria Hernandez	CF
Chief Mike DuRee	Long Beach Fire	Mike Sargent	Long Beach Fire Dept
Rex Pritchard	Long Beach Firefighters Assn	Bruce Fisher	(Ret) Long Beach Fire
James Farley	Long Beach Fire Fighters 372		

(Ab) = Absent; (Exc) = Excused Absence

CALL TO ORDER:

The Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC) meeting was held in the Los Angeles County Department of Education Conference Room, 10100 Pioneer Blvd, Santa Fe Springs, 90670. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Commission Chair, Raymond Mosack. A quorum was declared.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Each member of the Commission introduced him/herself to the audience.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

M/S/C: Commissioner Austin/Thompson to approve all items on the Consent Calendar in entirety.

5. BUSINESS (Old Business)

5.1 Status of Policy Initiatives

Cathy Chidester reported on the status of the Maddy EMS Fund, which supports the PSIP program by providing \$2 to the fund from each \$10 fine imposed. This legislation is due to sunset at the end of 2013. SB191 Emergency Medical Services, introduced by Padilla would replace the existing law. The bill as initially proposed would have extended the operative date indefinitely; however the bill was amended on June 24, 2013 with a sunset date of January 1, 2021. We will continue to watch this bill and inform the Commission of its progress. There is concern that even if it passes, the bill may be vetoed by the Governor.

5.2 Community Paramedic

Ms. Chidester reported that the EMS Agency formed a steering committee comprised of community stakeholders to address the future planning of a Community Paramedic program with Los Angeles County. Community Paramedicine is an evolving model of community-based health care in which paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles in ways that facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations.

A report on Community Paramedicine has been published by the UC Davis Institute for Population Health Improvement. The EMS Authority will soon release a letter of intent to accept Community Paramedic Program proposals. Ms. Chidester stated that the Los Angeles County Community Paramedic Program steering committee would meet again once the letter of intent is released to review it.

5.3 1 + 1 Paramedic Staffing Model

Long Beach Fire Chief Michael DuRee addressed the EMSC regarding Long Beach Fire Department's proposal to conduct a pilot project by using an alternative staffing program called Rapid Medic Deployment (RMD). He started out by giving an overview of the current EMS resources available in the City of Long Beach.

Chief DuRee stated that under this program, Long Beach Fire would redeploy existing paramedics so that one paramedic and one EMT would be assigned to a rescue unit. He believes that this pilot study would allow Long Beach Fire to gather meaningful data that could be used by others, allow for faster response,

and faster turnaround time. In conclusion, Chief DuRee requested that the EMSC allow Long Beach to engage in the pilot program of alternate staffing.

Q. *(Commissioner Gerald Clute) Will the paramedic stay with the patient at all times during the call and the BLS person do the driving. A. (Chief DuRee) Yes, under the new pilot the paramedic will be the patient person and stay with the patient from arrival on scene until patient is accepted by the hospital.*

Mr. Rex Pritchard, President, Long Beach Firefighters Association, gave public comment on Long Beach Fire's proposal. Mr. Pritchard stated that the proposed study did not align with Reference No. 407 which was passed by the EMSC at its' May 2013 meeting and asked that it not be approved. He went on to comment that there was no prior public comment period. Reference No. 407 allows a one-year project and Long Beach Fire proposed a two-year study. Long Beach's proposal is budget driven. It eliminates tiered dispatching in the City of Long Beach. The data being gathered by the proposal can be obtained through paramedic assessment engines. The proposal also alters SFTP's.

Mike Sergeant, Long Beach Fire Department, stated that Long Beach would continue the tiered-dispatching system. He then explained the tiered dispatch system for the EMSC.

- Alpha Response – Non urgent and transport unlikely; closest Engine to be dispatched Code 2. Under new system Alpha would still be a Code 2 with the addition of a paramedic on the Unit.
- Bravo Response – Non-life threatening and transport likely but not definite; closest Engine dispatched Code 3 and Rescue dispatched Code 2. Under the new system both Engine and Rescue dispatched Code 3.
- Charlie Response - ALS level response; under the new system one paramedic on the Engine and one paramedic on the Response.
- Under new system with two paramedics on scene, ALS patients may be assessed for SFTP criteria.

James Farley, Vice President, Long Beach Firefighters Association, stated that he was in agreement with Rex Pritchard that this proposal is a result of a budgetary crisis. Mr. Farley stated that his biggest concerns were how effectiveness of the system would be measured and was there a better way of delivering paramedics to the scene.

Bruce Fisher (Retired) Captain, Long Beach Fire, stated that there would be degradation of care with the proposed system by Long Beach. He urged the EMSC to not approve Long Beach Fire's proposal.

Q. *(Commissioner Gerald Clute) Have you yourselves tested that kind of system? A. (Bruce Fisher) I am not aware of a single department in the California that has a sworn FF/paramedic and non-sworn EMT on the same ambulance. I am not aware of a sworn-non sworn component. A. (Chief*

DuRee) several cities in California are doing similar programs, sworn and non-sworn personnel on the same ambulance.

- Q.** *(Commissioner Frank Binch) What can possibly happen that can be negative for the public? Are there mechanisms in place to monitor data regarding structure fires? A. (Chief DuRee) Yes, Long Beach has a very effective quality assurance program in place that is actively engaged in monitoring data on a monthly basis for several things. We will continue to monitor response times regarding structure fires. The electronic patient care reporting system will allow tracking of all in-service data.*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Frank Binch) Would you be comfortable with having the evaluation of the program run concurrent after its implementation? Tracking performance data and transparency of evaluation process? A. (Rex Pritchard, President, Long Beach Firefighters Association, stated that the system, as proposed based upon the budget, will fail. There are 13 transportation ambulances in Long Beach. This proposal will take the system down to 11 ambulances. Call volumes are increasing five-percent every year, longer response times, less paramedic units, and longer wall time. The current system works. Mr. Pritchard also stated that he would like to see independent audit put back into Reference No. 407.*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Erick Cheung) Please address decrease in transport units from 13 to 11. A. (Chief DuRee) Based upon actual data available, the Department believes that it can meet the need of the system with 11 ambulances.*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Daryl Parrish) What are the approximate budget savings associated with the proposal? A. (Chief DuRee) The overall budget savings is around \$1.6 - \$1.8 million; Department's annual general fund budget is \$78 million a year. With \$2 million restored into the budget, one fire engine can be replaced or two rescue units.*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Parrish) Time of response? A. (Chief DuRee) Less than two-minutes; A. (Mike Sergeant) thinks it would be higher*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Parrish) Without some type of pilot program how would you obtain data? A. (Chief DuRee) PAUs will collect data.*
- Q.** *(Commissioner Cheung) How soon will the Electronic Data Capturing System be operable? A. (Chief DuRee) The system is about two months away from "go live."*

M/S/C: Commissioner Binch/Weintraub to endorse Long Beach Fire's proposal for a pilot project with the following conditions:

- 1) EMS Agency's assurance following review of Long Beach Fire Department's implementation plan, that the project plan complies with Reference No. 407;

- 2) That the EMS Agency, in cooperation with Long Beach Fire Department, submit the evaluation criteria and plan line-by-line for discussion at the September EMS Commission meeting;
- 3) That the comprehensive evaluation plan identify each evaluation criterion, specify how it will be measured, how often results will be reported to the EMS Commission and what EMS Agency staff resources will be committed to the evaluation project;
- 4) That the pilot project's status be a standing item on the EMS Commission agenda until further notice.

Roll Call vote conducted: Eight (8) yes; One (1) no

Action: Work with Long Beach Fire Department to ensure that the plan is in compliance with Reference No. 407.

Responsibility: EMS Agency

(New Business)

5.4 Wall Time

Ms. Chidester reported that the State formed a Committee to address length of time paramedics and EMTs are spending at hospitals following transport of a patient before they are able to off-load the patient and return to service (wall time). A follow-up report will be provided.

6. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUESTS

None

7. LEGISLATION

None

8. EMS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Los Angeles County participated in a statewide Sidewalk CPR event on June 4, 2013. Approximately 7000 were trained in the County and 15,000 statewide.
- Reference No. 1301, *Los Angeles County Prehospital Code of Ethics*, which was included in the Commission material, is being distributed throughout the community for information.

- Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) legislation, signed into law could allow for up to 50% of actual cost recovery for medical billing public and private agencies that transport patients, however the reimbursement methodology and what is allowed is still being worked out with CMS. This new law will be retroactive to January 10, 2010 and should kick off sometime in mid-September this year. Long Beach City Fire Department will host a workshop on August 27 to discuss methodology, cost analysis, and the application process.

Action: Place on September agenda for discussion

Responsibility: EMS Agency

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mosack at 2:20 PM in memory of the fallen Arizona Hot Shots.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2013
 EMS Agency
 10100 Pioneer Blvd.
 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Recorded by:
Marilyn E. Rideaux
Commission Liaison